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CONDITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
UTAH

At the request of the president and with the authorization of the council of the American Association of University Professors, the secretary of the association recently visited Salt Lake City and spent four days investigating the conditions at the University of Utah which have led to the resignation of sixteen members of the university faculty. The purpose and the limitations of the scope of the investigation are indicated by the following extracts from the secretary's letter to the president of the university:

The situation that has recently developed at the University of Utah has aroused much concern throughout the country among persons interested in the work of the American universities, and especially among members of the university teaching profession. It has, however, been difficult for those at a distance to be sure that they had correctly gathered the essential facts of the case from the incomplete and more or less conflicting *ex parte* statements which have appeared in newspapers and periodicals. In particular, the statements made upon the two sides of the controversy appear to have failed specifically to join issue upon certain points of interest. It has, therefore, seemed advisable to the president of the American Association of University Professors, Dr. John Dewey, to send a representative of that organization to interview yourself and others concerned, with reference to the matters in controversy; and to endeavor to secure as full and impartial a statement as may be of the relevant facts. It is perhaps advisable to explain the nature of the interest which the Association of University Professors takes in the matter. It is coming to be a well-recognized principle that the general body of university teachers is entitled to know, with regard to any institution, the conditions of the tenure of the professorial office therein, the methods of university government, and the policy and practise of the institution with respect to freedom of inquiry and teaching. In the absence of information upon these points, it is impossible for members of the profession to judge whether or not the institution is one in which positions may be properly accepted or retained by university teachers having a respect for the dignity of their calling, a sense of its social obligations, and a regard for the ideals of a university.

It is, therefore, important to the profession that

when criticisms or charges are made by responsible persons against any institution, with respect to its policy or conduct in the matters to which I referred, the facts should be carefully determined in a judicial spirit by some committee wholly detached from any local or personal controversy, and in some degree representative of the profession at large. It is in this spirit, and for these purposes, that information is sought in this instance. What appears to be particularly desirable, in the present case, is a fuller and more definite statement than has yet been made public upon certain matters of fact which still remain not wholly clear, but which are, presumably, not incapable of ascertainment.

Any information of this sort which—with your assistance and that of others—I may be able to gather, will be laid before the council of the association, and probably also before a joint committee representing this and other organizations. My own report and the findings of the committee will, no doubt, if the council see fit, eventually be made public. We, of course, assume that the administration of the university is equally desirous that all facts in any way pertinent be thus fully made known, and submitted to the impartial judgment of both the academic and the general public.

We therefore venture to count upon your aid in this attempt to draw up a complete and unbiased summary of the circumstances of the case; this, we hope, may be of some service to the university as well as to our profession.

A report upon the case may be expected as soon as a committee of the association is able to consider the evidence brought together by the investigation of the secretary.

THE PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

THE letter from Professor J. N. Bowman, secretary of the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies, published in *SCIENCE* for April 9, 1915, gives me the pleasant opportunity of placing on record certain interesting facts concerning the Pacific Association.

Men and women of science residing in the Pacific region were obliged to recognize that the demands upon time and money to enable them to attend the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in the Eastern or Central States, were so severe as to be prohibitive to fully 99 per cent. of the 800 Pacific members. Inasmuch as the

American Association could not extend its influence efficiently over this region, because of the great extent of our country in longitude, and especially in order that the general scientific interests of the region should be united, it was determined by Professor Bowman and many of his colleagues in the universities and colleges of the Pacific region, and by others engaged in the applications of science, to establish an association of the principal scientific societies already existing in the Pacific area. The organization was effected some five years ago and the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies has been leading a vigorous and useful life. Annual meetings have been held in some of the leading educational centers, such as the University of California, Stanford University and the University of Washington.

Two years ago the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science adopted the policy of organizing divisions of the American Association for the accommodation of those members who live at great distances from the chief centers of American population. In harmony with this policy, a Pacific Coast Committee was appointed to organize a Pacific Division. There was at once the question of the future of the Pacific Association, whose functions were in most essentials precisely those proposed for the Pacific Division. The men and the societies that were making a success of the Pacific Association were identically the men and the societies that would be expected to make a success of the Pacific Division of the American Association. Evidently there must be no duplication. The only practicable solution required that the Pacific Association should give up its identity and that the forces which were active in the Pacific Association should be active in the work of the Pacific Division. It was evident that the Pacific Division offered important advantages over the existing organization, in part from the resulting unification of general scientific interests throughout America. The problem was approached in a sympathetic and unselfish spirit by all concerned, especially by the officers and more active members of the Pacific Association, and by none more efficiently than by Secretary Bowman.

It has seemed to me that the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies, in giving up its existence, should have the principal incidents of its birth, activities and dissolution recorded in this manner as a matter of historical interest.

It should be recognized by every one, it seems to me, that the justification for moral and financial support afforded to scientific investigation rests finally upon the availability of the results for the welfare of mankind and the general progress of civilization. It is hoped that all men and women of the Pacific region who are sincerely interested in scientific research or in the spread of knowledge amongst the people will feel entirely at home in the Pacific Division of the American Association, for the encouragement of research and the dissemination of knowledge are pre-eminently, as every one knows, the functions of the Association and of all its Divisions. The sparsely populated condition of the Pacific region, which includes all United States territory lying west of the Rocky Mountains, as well as Mexico, British Columbia, Alaska and the Islands of the Sea, will unavoidably place a serious limitation upon the success of the Pacific Division unless a very large percentage of the scientists and friends of science in this region subscribe to its membership roll and join enthusiastically in promoting its plans. The yielding of generous support would on the contrary make success prompt and complete.

W. W. CAMPBELL,

*President American Association
for the Advancement of Science*

MOUNT HAMILTON, CALIFORNIA,

April 14, 1915

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON POLICY

MESSRS. NICHOLS, Pickering, Woodward, Cattell, Noyes, Humphreys, Fairchild, Paton and Howard, of the committee, met informally in the private dining-room of the Cosmos Club on Monday, April 19, 1915, at 7 P.M. After dinner, the meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Nichols.